

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

November 4, 2010

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Michael Kelly (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Amy Valentine (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

Absent: Mayor Donald Kasprzak

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on October 28, 2010 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Valentine
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending November 3, 2010 in the amount of \$ 246,420.42 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of October 28 – November 3, 2010
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from October 27 – November 1, 2010

RESOLVED: That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. **AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

RESOLVED: That the bills approved by the Auditing Committee of the Common Council in the amount of \$ 627,738.87 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. **PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL: None**

7. **OTHER ITEMS:**

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Engineer to file a Recreation Trails Program Grant with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and to commission SUNY TAC to assist in preparation of grant application for continuation of the "Saranac River Trail."

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Jackson
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the Mayor is authorized to sign an agreement between the "State" and the "City" for shared services for a thirty-six (36) month period commencing on July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2013.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Bid No. 2010-10-1 "Electric Meters Revenue Type" be awarded to GoTToGo Electric, Inc in the total amount of \$89,544, the cost of these meters will be reimbursed through the IEEP program.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Jackson
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Fire Chief Paul Williams to attend the “New York State Career Chiefs Meeting” in Tonawanda, NY on November 16, 2010. The cost will not exceed \$350.

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

1. The Regular Common Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 25, 2010 will be changed due to Thanksgiving Holiday to Tuesday, November 23, 2010 beginning at 5:30 pm. The work session will begin at 5 pm.
2. Request from Bill Treacy Manager MLD to award Bid No. 2010-9-2 “Utility Wood Poles” to Cox Industries in the total amount of \$14,993.16.
3. Request from Michelle Doorey that the fee for the city gym be waived in honor of a “Zumbathon for Hannah’s Hope” being held on Sunday, January 30th.
4. Request that the Mayor be authorized to enter into a contract with the Benefits Administrator for Pharmacy Services.
5. Request from Mayor Donald M. Kasprzak to attend the NYCOM Executive Committee Meeting and Legislative Priorities Meeting in Albany, New York from November 14–15, 2010 at an estimated cost not to exceed \$359.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Valentine wanted to congratulate all the councilors on a successful campaign season. She wants to talk about Trick or Treat on Safety Street. She just got the purchase order and they spent almost \$4800 on candy and that was fairly similar to last years purchase. She asked **Recreation Superintendent Steve Peters** how many booths we had this year. He said 28 booths, they ended up with \$7600 in revenue and with \$4400 plus in overtime he had a buffer of about \$500. She asked how much time they need to put in to Trick or Treat on Safety Street for all of it, setup, etc. He said they need 3 or 4 days ahead of time, this is the 7th

year now and his staff knows exactly what to do and it runs smooth. This was the biggest year they had over 2500 people the line was all the way out to the dog park. It was a good event it went really well they ended up with maybe 8 lbs of candy left. So juxtapose to all that good feeling stuff she is sorry but she is going to come off sounding like a sour piece of candy, but, she really doesn't think they should be in the job of handing out candy to kids. She thinks in a time when we are combating childhood obesity, diabetes and sedentary lifestyles she thinks are recreation department should not have to be busy handing out candy. She knows in some regard that sounds harsh, but, she really truly believes that with all her heart. They could be putting the time and effort of our staff into programming and generating revenues and trying to combat our health issues and dietary issues and sedentary issues and not be putting it into candy. And she would really like to see this just go away. And she is sorry that it runs smoothly and it is great and they have lines all the way out, but, she really thinks it is time to just do away with it. And she doesn't know how all the rest of the **Council** feels about it, but she is certainly willing to put a motion on the table to, and not tonight, generate a resolution to do away with it and she thinks they all know it, it is there all the time in front of us. We read about it all the time, all the health issues we are battling with our kids. And they can go door to door.

Councilor Kelly said he would be in favor of it if there were an alternative proposal, a healthy Halloween, he could get behind that.

Councilor Valentine said there have been dentist giving candy away at this thing in the past. As you can see she feels strongly about it. A healthy Halloween is a great concept but she is sure the lines would be out to the dog park, but, perhaps we could work on that or some kind of alternative.

Councilor Kelly said she probably won't like hearing this but he had maybe 200 children at his house so they are getting their candy somewhere.

Councilor Valentine yes they are and we have safe neighborhoods that is one of the wonderful things about our community and she thinks the Trick or Treat on Safety Street was in reaction to not safe neighborhoods and having a safe place for kids to go trick or treating and she thinks that was part of the original concept although she really couldn't get wrapped around that very well to begin with because we have a really in credibly safe community.

Councilor Rabideau said in contrast many years ago when he was a kid and even after that when he was working with a uniform on we had events downtown. There was a parade, there were bands in the parade and there was block party at City Hall and there was a band on the side of City Hall near the steps. Except for one thing it brought everybody in to the City and it also brought a lot of problems too. Because all the windows got waxed, downtown was kind of messy after and there was criminal mischief because you have a mixture of everybody. What you do have at the Crete Center is a controlled event. You have the police and the recreation people and it is a controlled event for Halloween for the kids. You have an issue of the candy but in contrast to what happened years ago with the block party's and so forth it was controlled to some extent but the ability to control it was missing because you had open streets, you had the block party, you had bands on City steps there was a lot more ability for things to happen to cars and there was mixture of people all ages, older people, people drinking downtown mixed in with the event that is going on. In the sense that the Crete Center has a controlled event he kind of supports what they are doing as far as if you do have an issue with the candy then maybe somebody would have some kind of alternative to be done. But the alternative of what's happened in the past he thinks is definitely an improvement. It is for the kids it allows

them to be in a controlled environment. He kind of favors the event, the point is maybe it could be looked at on some of **Councilor Valentine's** concerns.

Councilor Valentine said that is a lot of candy they get to walk away with. 28 booths and they have been out there before in past years. She thinks they have an obligation as a **Council** to control these kinds of situations and watch out for the health and well being of our children and handing out candy is not what they need to be doing as a City. Philosophically she really doesn't.

Councilor Carpenter he understands what she is saying. He wonders how much candy a kid walks out of there with they gave away a ton of candy but there were a lot of people there. This event apparently is very well liked by the community because a lot of people go to it.

Councilor Valentine is that a rationalization enough to keep it when we know we are handing candy out simply because it's well liked. We have to make tough decisions.

Councilor Carpenter asked if **Councilor Valentine** believes the people are going there only for the free candy or are they going there for other reasons.

Councilor Valentine said she feels the free candy is a big attraction otherwise why would someone want to stand on a line that is all the way out to the doggy park in the yucky cold weather.

Councilor Carpenter said he is really going to have to think about this as it is very popular and there are a lot of people that go there.

Councilor Valentine said it's not like Halloween is going to stop because they don't have Trick or Treat on Safety Street they will go get there candy elsewhere. But she thinks as a **Council** they have a responsibility to protect the health. We all have somebody in our family who is battling with obesity, overweight, diabetes all those health issues related to bad diets and sedentary lifestyles.

Councilor Calnon thinks the discussion is a good one. He thinks she is right the best thing to do is to bring a specific resolution to the floor. **Councilor Valentine** said she would. There were a couple of ideas tossed out he would ask **Recreation Superintendent Steve Peters** to take a look at some of the issues that were out there particularly some of the ideas if there is a way to make this a healthier experience. That is the time to have this debate.

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Valentine
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:47 pm